

CERTIFICATION STANDARDS & PRACTICES

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2009

*Conference Room
Front Street Learning Center
815 Front Street
Helena, MT 59601*

CALL TO ORDER

CSPAC Chair, Dr. Douglas Reisig, called the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council meeting to order on Thursday, January 17, 2009 at 8:45 A.M. CSPAC council members present were: Chair, Dr. Douglas Reisig, School Administrator, Missoula; Vice-Chair, Ms. Melodee Smith-Burreson, Teacher, Missoula; Ms. Tonia Bloom, Trustee, Corvallis; Ms. Patty Muir, K-12 Specialist, Laurel; Ms. Judie Woodhouse, Teacher, Polson; Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh, Dean of Education, MSU Billings, Billings; and Ms. Sharon Applegate, Teacher, Kalispell. Staff members present were: Mr. Peter Donovan, Administrative Officer for CSPAC; Mr. Steve Meloy, Executive Secretary for the Board of Public Education; and Ms. Anneliese Warhank, CSPAC Administrative Assistant. The following people signed the meeting roster: Ms. Bonnie Graham, MSU Billings; Ms. Tracy Grazley, U of M Western; Ms. Kim Warrick, OPI; Mr. Larry Nielson, MEA-MFT; Ms. Elizabeth Keller, OPI; Ms. Nancy Coopersmith, OPI; Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson, OPI; Ms. Nikki Sandve, OPI; Mr. Mike Miller, U of M Western.

Motion: Ms. Melodee Smith-Burreson moved to approve the agenda. This was seconded by Ms. Judie Woodhouse. Motion was unanimously approved.

Motion: Ms. Judie Woodhouse moved to approve the October 23-24, 2008 CSPAC meeting minutes. This was seconded by Ms. Sharon Applegate. Motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Woodhouse asked for some clarification on Item 5 of the October 24, 2008 CSPAC meeting concerning special education and the advantages to keeping children from entering the program. Dr. Reisig asked Mr. Donovan to lead the Council through the correspondence. The first item was an email from NCTAF to Mr. Donovan requesting he approve information they wish to add to their website highlighting some of the work we are doing as the state of Montana for teacher accreditation. It was suggested if any Council member had ideas on what to add, they should email Mr. Donovan with the proposals. Next came minutes from the Paraprofessional Meeting held last December by MEA-MFT to highlight the efforts of paraprofessionals across the state to meet standards. After that was a letter from the Commissioner of Higher Education, Dr. Sheila Sterns, to notify the Council of OCHE's move out of the New York Block Building. Finally, an email from Dr. Jayne Downey of MSU Bozeman, discussing the proposed draft rules for teacher mentoring as an Area of Permissive Special Competency.

INFORMATION ITEMS

***Items are in the order they were discussed at the meeting.**

ITEM 1 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT – Dr. Douglas Reisig and Ms. Melodee Smith-Burreson

The Council reviewed last year's CSPAC Annual Report and discussed updates to be completed before presenting the 2008 Annual Report at the joint meeting with BPE in March. The Professional Educators of Montana Code of Ethics were briefly looked over and everyone agreed to continue to support these as they are currently written. The Council then reviewed the short term goals. One goal was to clarify the meaning of "contract" in ARM Rule 10.55.716(A)(B). The Council would also like to look at ways to increase teacher retention over the first five years of service. The highlights for the Interpreter's Standards Workgroup Meeting were reviewed and discussed.

ITEM 2 NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND REPORT – Ms. Nancy Coopersmith, OPI

Ms. Nancy Coopersmith, the Assistant Superintendent of Public Instruction for OPI, came before the Council to update them on the No Child Left Behind Act. NCLB states that an educator who is licensed and endorsed in the areas they teach are considered Highly Qualified Teachers (HQT). In April of 2008, there was an on-site Federal review of Title II part A. Three findings have been made from this review that must be met by the state to remain eligible to receive NCLB funding: 1) Special Education teachers, if teaching a core academic subject, must meet licensure requirements within the core academic areas they teach. 2) Teachers are required to have a major, or its equivalent, to meet the HQ requirements to teacher core academics; therefore teachers who have academic minors in a core academic subject in which they teach do not meet HQ. 3) OPI considers elementary teachers who hold a Class 5 Alternative License to meet the federal HQ requirements at the time of issuance. However, the US Dept of Ed states elementary teachers holding a Class 5 Alternate License must demonstrate subject matter competence prior to being considered to meet HQ requirements and prior to being counted in the annual data collections as meeting HQ requirements. One of the goals of NCLB is to have the December 2009 Consolidated State Performance Report 100% accurate in order to demonstrate to the USED that Montana has met the standards as set by the Federal Government. The council inquired about the status reports submitted by the school districts and what to do if a teacher does not qualify for HQT.

ITEM 3 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT – Mr. Pete Donovan

Mr. Donovan provided CSPAC with a summary of meetings he has attended since the October 2008 CSPAC meeting. The Class 3 portion of Chapter 57 was discussed; Chapter 57 will have its hearing on February 24, 2009. The language will most likely be modified. The House and Senate Joint Appropriation Sub-Committee met with BPE and the Board of Regents to talk about the work of the agencies. On the 14th of January, Mr. Meloy presented a PowerPoint before the Joint House and Senate Education Committee to speak more about the Board's work. Mr. Donovan also spoke about the meeting he and Mr. Meloy had with the Legislative Audit Division concerning dual enrollment and the upcoming audit to determine which schools, and how schools are participating. The Audit Division was redirected toward Mr. Michael Hall, the Instructional Technology Specialist at OPI, for more information. The proposed language approved at the October 2008 meeting was stricken from the CSPAC Bylaws due to incorrect information. The Council then approved language extending term limits for elected officials on the Council from two years to six.

Motion: Ms. Judie Woodhouse moved to approve the amended CSPAC Bylaws, striking the language from Article II. Purpose, extending the possible

term of an elective officer from two to six years Article V. Section A. Paragraph 2. This was seconded by Ms. Melodee Smith-Burreson. Motion was unanimously approved and will be presented to the Board for final approval.

Ms. Bloom expressed concern of the possibility of electing a first year Council member to an office, but the Council felt since they elect the officers, they will elect only those with the best qualifications and experience. It was suggested the term limits for a CSPAC member be extended to July of their final year to allow the newly elected member time with the outgoing one for mentoring. Mr. Donovan explained this could not be possible since the Council can only have seven acting members at one time.

**ITEM 4 WESTERN STATES CERTIFICATION CONFERENCE REPORT –
Dr. Douglas Reisig**

Dr. Reisig displayed his PowerPoint he presented a week prior at the Western States Certification Conference in Austin, TX. The PowerPoint concentrated on offering a fair and equal opportunity to students from all economic and ethnic backgrounds by altering the school system. In order to “re-tool and remain a high performing school district,” Dr. Reisig presented six fundamental concepts:

- Insist on uniform and shared leadership/shared vision.
- Hold high expectations for administrators and teachers.
- Teachers and administrators must understand the need to target assistance to low-performing students & start with reading and mathematics.
- Teachers and administrators must create a culture of data and assessment literacy.
- Teachers and administrators must work together to build and sustain institutional capacity.

Reading and mathematics are extremely important, understanding the basics in the first years of education are necessary for a student to excel through the rest of their educational career. Mr. Reisig ended by stating if we focus on these ideals, we can make a difference in a child’s life.

ITEM 5 EXECUTIVE SECRETARY’S REPORT – Mr. Steve Meloy

On January 10, 2009, Mr. Meloy, along with BPE members Ms. Patty Myers and Ms. Angela McLean, attended a Legislative sponsored education meeting entitled “Learning for Life: Pre-school through Continuing Ed”. Mr. Meloy also spoke about his appearance before the Joint House and Senate Education Committee on January 14, 2009 to speak about the Board of Public Education. He spoke about bills currently being presented before House and Senate committees that, if passed, would directly affect BPE. These included:

- SJ 8 - Urge development of K-20 education shared policy goals.

BPE has participated in the last three interim studies and have developed recommendations that have largely been rejected by the legislature, yet they would like another interim study. Regardless, BPE will participate and would like to see the recommendations approved and developed into bills, submitted by Sen. Hawks.

- SB 80 - Elect Board of Regents.

Will do away with governor appointments, submitted by Sen. McGee.

- SB 81 - Elect Board of Public Education.

Will do away with governor appointments, also submitted by Sen. McGee.

- SB 67 – Require identification of funding before school rules with fiscal can be impact implemented.

SB 67 places more power in the hands of the legislatures by requiring funds to be located prior to implementing rules, policies, or standards that would have fiscal impacts on public schools. The bill challenges the Supreme Court decision by Judge Sherlock that upheld the Board's rulemaking authority. This bill was submitted by Sen. Liable.

On January 29, 2009, Mr. Meloy will speak for the Board at the budget hearing. One of the main points he will make will be the legal costs to cover for appeals of educator licenses. There is currently one appeal to a license revocation that will be heard in the 1st Judicial District.

**ITEM 6 PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION AND CONTINUING EDUCATION
COMMITTEE REPORT – Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh and Ms. Tonia Bloom**

Dr. Fishbaugh spoke about the MSU-Billings Higher Education Consortium, which took place at the same time as the October, 2008 CSPAC meeting. At the Consortium, David Langford presented the *Quality Learning System*. This is a management theory that deals with classroom organization and encouraging students to be more involved in classroom development (the curriculum and structure) in order to build student ownership. Dr. Fishbaugh expressed interest in having CSPAC study his work further.

**ITEM 8 LICENSURE AND ENDORSEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT – Ms. Sharon
Applegate and Ms. Patty Muir**

Ms. Keller, Dr. Peterson, and Mr. Donovan spoke to the Council about the Class 8 Dual Credit-Only Postsecondary Faculty License Application process. The courses being offered online will be determined by each school district depending on which courses they currently offer. Mr. Miller posed a question concerning the moral turpitude of a professor, and if some would be fit to teach high school students. Dr. Fishbaugh stated that at MSU Billings, if a professor does not uphold moral turpitude, they cannot even receive tenure and continue to work at the institution. Also, by requiring the Chief Academic Officer to sign off on the application, it is ensured only those considered valued colleagues at their respective college or university will apply. Further, if a professor does commit immoral conduct, their Class 8 license will be revoked and they will be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse. Fingerprinting the professors (as all educators are required to provide fingerprints) will also help track any possible repeat offenders.

ITEM 9 OPI UPDATE – Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson, OPI

Dr. Peterson spoke about the recent transition to Ms. Denise Juneau, the current Superintendent of Public Instruction for the state. Mr. Dennis Parman was chosen as Deputy Superintendent and will take office in July. Until then, Mr. Bob Runkle will be the acting Deputy Superintendent. Next she spoke about the implications of HQT requirements, the three major areas of concern are: 1) special education teachers who do not have an academic major in the area they are teaching at the high school level; 2) secondary teachers with a minor who are teaching in that minor area at the high school level; 3) and Class 5 alternative license teachers who are teaching at the elementary level, these teachers will need to take a elementary content test to prove their proficiency in the content area before they enter the classroom. Ms. Keller added that with the re-write of Chapter 57, when someone meets "deficiency" (hasn't completed a teacher prep program), they will now need to submit a plan of study.

2:00 P.M. Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh Departed

ITEM 7 MONTANA COMMISSION ON TEACHING COMMITTEE – Ms. Melodee Smith-Burreson and Ms. Judie Woodhouse

Ms. Burreson and Ms. Woodhouse passed out a survey they would like to distribute to schools that have participated in the Montana Mentoring Institute sponsored by OPI to gather information on how schools are implementing teacher mentoring programs. Ms. Sandve offered to work with the committee to distribute the surveys and requested that she add a few questions of her own to help with a grant she is working on attaining. An issue that has arisen recently with mentors is that many are leaving their schools to take on higher positions. However, there is a possibility of adding teacher mentoring programs to the Chapter 55 General Accreditation Standards Foundation Standards. This section would state that schools shall work towards a mentor program of their own and may help with mentor placement and retention. Ms. Sandve also spoke about how instead of the Mentor Institute, a mentor training program will be offered this summer in Helena to train the trainers during the last week of July. Mr. Donovan then presented the draft language to add teacher mentoring as an Area of Permissive Special Competency.

Motion: Ms. Judie Woodhouse moved to push forward the draft language for teacher mentoring 10.57.527(7) to be added as an Area of Permissive Special Competency. This was seconded by Ms. Melodee Smith-Burreson. Motion was unanimously approved and will be presented to the Board for final approval. Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh was absent for the vote.

ITEM 10 Future Agenda Items

The future agenda items, including planning for the joint Board of Public Education meeting, were reviewed.

ITEM 11 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Dr. Douglas Reisig adjourned the meeting at 2:23 P.M.

Please contact the CSPAC office to request copies of the Highlights from previous CSPAC meetings:

CSPAC, 46 North Last Chance Gulch, P.O. Box 200601, Helena, Montana, 59620-0601.